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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph of the specification
beginning at page 24, line 4 as follows:

--A small block deinterleaver 138 deinterleaves the robust VSB data. The small block deinterleaver 138 has a relatively low delay time. This deinterleaving disperses possible burst errors in the robust VSB data at the output of the soft output twelve way $2/3$ rate inner decoder 132. The normally ordered robust VSB data is bitwise decoded by an outer decoder 140 which also packs the robust VSB data into bytes. The ~~amp~~ map information telling the outer decoder 140 what decoding rate to use on what data is provided to the outer decoder 140 at an R_{MAP} Data input. Neither the deinterleaver 52 nor the interleaver 62 is needed in the robust VSB receiver 130 allowing for lower overall feedback delay to the phase tracker and/or equalizer. The outer decoded data can be used, for example, by an enhanced slice predictor 142 to generate feedback to the phase tracker and/or equalizer. If desired, the feedback may be gated, or the step size of the equalizer gradient algorithm adjusted proportionally to the reliability of the decoded data.--

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